

Appendix B

MEMORANDUM FOR: Frank Kelly
Mark Paese, Acting Director
Maintenance Logistic and Acquisitions Division

FROM: Carolyn Lopez-DeMatteo
NOAA Property Management Officer

SUBJECT: Disposition of National Weather Service Legacy Upper Air
Systems

Per the information contained in the undated memo directed to the me as NOAA's Property Management Officer, and the emails received subsequently, the National Weather Service (NWS) is in the process of procuring and deploying a state-of-the art upper-air sounding system at designated field sites. This new system is called the Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS). The deployment of this equipment necessitates the removal and disposal of the legacy Automatic Radio-Theodolite (ART) equipment, specifically, the ART-1 and ART-2 Ground Tracking Systems and the MicroART computer.

The NWS has determined that certain parts of the ART ground tracking systems will be required to be cannibalized out of the systems that are taken out of service to maintain those systems that will remain in service while the RRS is being deployed. The ART systems will be in the NWS inventory until the last RRS has been installed, with a number of units held in service several years beyond for climate comparison studies. This could push requirements for spares at least 10 (ten) systems into years 2008-2009.

The Department of Commerce Personal Property Management Manual spells out three conditions which must be satisfied before cannibalization is permitted:

A.) "Repair of the broken or worn parts is not possible, or not cost-effective;" It is intended that replacement parts be cannibalized out of the ART systems because the parts which must be replaced can not be repaired economically. For example, the equipment can only be repaired a limited number of times after which time they would have to be produced new through a reverse-engineering process. Also, it is difficult to get companies to contract for repairing components such as the azimuth/elevation bearings, hysteresis clutches and pylon motors because the technology is old, because of the low volume and quick turn-around requirements, and because they are unwilling to undergo

the National Reconditioning Center's necessary quality control verification procedures.

B.) "Required parts are not available from other units previously cannibalized;" The NWS will use all parts available from an ART that has already been cannibalized before cannibalizing a different ART.

C.) "The benefit realized from cannibalization exceeds the estimated trade-in or sale value of the unit being considered for cannibalization." The NWS will be able to keep the current ART systems up and running through the period of time that the replacement systems are being deployed by using cannibalized parts. If cannibalized parts were not used, the cost of repairing the current ART systems would be prohibitive. For example, pylon motors that originally cost \$760 had to be replaced with ones that cost \$4200. The value of a non-cannibalized ART to a potential buyer is minimal because of the problems they would have finding parts to maintain the equipment. Furthermore, the radiosondes which this equipment was designed to work with will no longer be economically manufacturable once the NWS stops using them, and the radio-frequency spectrum used by this equipment is no longer available. Therefore, the benefits from cannibalization far exceed any estimated trade-in or sale value.

Consequently, under my authority as Property Management Officer for NOAA, I hereby certify that the cannibalization of the NWS ART-1 and ART-2 Ground Tracking equipment is the most beneficial and cost-effective use of this equipment and authorize the cannibalization as deemed appropriate by the NWS. The MicroART is basically an old 1970's IBM Micro Computer. Since it is not being considered for cannibalization, it will be excessed through normal procedures.

In addition, I hereby further authorize the NWS to dispose of the remaining equipment locally.

The Federal Management Regulations state:

§ 102-36.305. May we abandon or destroy excess personal property without reporting it to GSA?

Yes, you may abandon or destroy excess personal property when you have made a written determination that the property has no commercial value or the estimated cost of its continued care and handling would exceed the estimated proceeds from its sale. An item has no commercial value when it has neither utility nor monetary value (either as an item or as scrap).

§ 102-36.310. Who makes the determination to abandon or destroy excess personal property?

To abandon or destroy excess personal property, an authorized official of your agency makes a written finding that must be approved by a reviewing official who is not directly accountable for the property.

The ART-2 assembly employs a large, heavy (>2100 lbs) steel pedestal structure installed in an elevated radome structure. The NWS cannot remove the ART-2 pedestal from the top of the inflation building without either lifting the radome or cutting the pedestal into several pieces in order to remove it through the radome door. The NWS has determined that it would be too risky and expensive to try to lift the radome so the pedestal structure could be removed. Therefore, I am hereby authorizing the NWS to disassemble the pedestal by cutting it into pieces.

What will be left after the disassembly of the ART-2 pedestal and the cannibalization of parts from both the ART-1 and the ART-2 will have no commercial value either in terms of its utility nor its monetary value (either as an item or as scrap).

I am also authorizing the NWS to dispose of the remaining equipment components of the ART-1 and ART-2 locally in accordance with the Federal Management Regulations, Article 102-36.

This does not, however, preclude the Property Custodians from informing the appropriate Regional Property Manager when the equipment has been removed from service and disposed of. Though no Board of Review action is required, a CD-52 form must be completed to document the disposition of the ART equipment. The face of the form must indicate the Property Identification Number (barcode number) and the serial number of the equipment being disposed of as well as the date the equipment was taken out of service. The reverse side of the form must describe the action taken to dispose of the equipment in the Disposition of Property section and give the date of actual disposition, and must be signed and dated by the responsible official.

If there are any questions please contact Brian Mason in the Personal Property Office at (301) 713-3530, ext. 165.

Signed by Carolyn Lopez-DeMatteo
Approved

September 26, 2002
Date